



NEWS RELEASE

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Howard and Montgomery County's State's Attorneys Sign Agreement To Review Cases That Stem From A Death Alleged to Have Occurred Due to Police Action

Earlier this month, the State's Attorneys for Howard and Montgomery Counties took concrete steps to reassure the public that police investigations of in-custody deaths in those jurisdictions will be fully investigated by independent prosecutors to promote transparency and trust.

The main recommendations with regard to prosecutorial conduct from the Obama Administration issued report "21st Century Policing" or Pillar Number Two out of Six is being implemented by the two jurisdictions.

"I want to commend State's Attorney Rich Gibson for his leadership and foresight in committing this best practice to writing and into action. These investigations are not easy. His team is very thorough and thoughtful, and we look forward to their continued work for justice in Maryland," said State's Attorney John McCarthy of Montgomery County.

"This 'first-of-its-kind' agreement in the state of Maryland establishes the protocols and procedures that will guide our two counties when investigating cases of police-involved fatalities. By having a written memorandum in place that outlines the steps taken during the investigation of a case, our hope is that it will address the public's criticism of the process and answer any questions they may have as to how prosecutors arrive at their decision. I'd also like to thank State's Attorney John McCarthy for working in a collaborative manner to bring this agreement to fruition," said State's Attorney Rich Gibson, Jr. of Howard County.

The agreement today represents a meeting of the minds and signing of documents that will help articulate in writing a way to independently assure the public that a just conclusion based on the law is reached. Accountability, transparency and justice under the law are what both offices are striving for with this renewed effort.

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